

Message Text

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TAGS: ETRD,EEWT,EIND,UR,US

SUBJECT: MAJOR COMMERCIAL OPPORTUNITY-UDOKAN COPPER

USDOC FOR BEWT/TDAD-(PLANAGAN)

REF: A) STATE 127857 (NOTAL); B) MOSCOW 5843(NOTAL)

1. COMMATT MET WITH PATTINSON OF BECHTEL BEFORE AND AFTER LATTER'S JUNE 4 MEETING WITH E.A. AYKAZYAN OF STATE COMMITTEE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND OTHER SOVIET OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS UKOKAN COPPER PROJECT.
 2. FOLLOWING MEETING WITH AYKAZYAN, PATTINSON ADVISED THAT SOVIET APPROACH ON UDOKAN WAS CONSISTENT WITH INFORMATION WHICH MINISTRY OF NON-FERROUS METALLURGY AND STATE COMMITTEE OFFICIALS HAD PREVIOUSLY GIVEN COMMATT (SEE REF B). PATTINSON ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT AYKAZYAN HAD MADE CLEAR THAT RIO TINTO-ZINC HAD WHAT AMOUNTED TO INSIDE TRACK ON UDOKAN, IF RTZ WERE INTERESTED, LARGELY AS A RESULT OF PREVIOUS SOVIET-RTZ CONTACTS ON UKOKAN. PATTINSON ADVISED THAT BECHTEL WOULD PROBABLY WORK OUT OF ITS LONDON AND/OR PARIS OFFICES IN FUTURE CONTACTS WITH SOVIETS ON UKOKAN, ASSUMING BECHTEL'S TOP MANAGEMENT IS INTERESTED, DUE TO LACK OF FINANCING IN UNITED STATES.
 3. ON RELATED SUBJECT, PATTINSON NOTED THAT BECHTEL HAD BEEN CONTACTED RECENTLY BY REYNOLDS ALUMINUM CHAIRMAN LOUIS REYNOLDS
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REGARDING SOVIET APPROACH TO REYNOLDS ON MAJOR ALUMINUM PROJECT

IN USSR. AS DESCRIBED BY PATTINSON, PROJECT ON WHICH SOVIETS REQUESTED REYNOLDS PROPOSAL SOUNDS VERY SIMILAR TO THAT WHICH PECHINEY/UGINE KUHLMANN HAS BEEN DISCUSSING WITH SOVIETS. COMMATT SUGESTED THAT SOVIETS WERE PROBABLYYY SEEKING OFFERS FROM OTHER WESTERN ALUMINUM COMPANIES IN ORDER TO PUT PRESSURE ON PECHINEY AND QUESTIONED WHETHER REYNOLDS WOULD BE WISE TO ENTER THE BIDDING, GIVEN COST OF PREPARING PROPOSAL, AT THIS RATHER LATE HOUR. (COMMENT: KAISER ALUMINUM DELEGATION, HEADED BY EDGAR KAISER, IS DUE TO ARRIVE IN MOSCOW JUNE 11 OT CONTINUE TALKS WITH DEPUTY MINISTER OF FOREIGN TRADE SUSHKOV, WHO MET WITH EDGAR KAISER AND OTHER KAISER OFFICIALS DURING HIS RECENT TRIP TO CANADA. CONTINUATION OF DICUSSIONS WITH DAISER AND EFFORT TO BRING REYNOLDS INTO PICTURE SUGGESTS THAT SOVIETS ARE BY NO MEANS CONFIDENT THAT DEAL WITH PECHINEY WILL GO THROUGH. END COMMENT).

STOESSEL

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